

## REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of July 14, 2003 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application.

By the above actions, claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 are pending for consideration, of which claim 1 is independent.

Referring now to the detailed Office Action, claim 2 stands objected to as containing informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2, as shown above, to overcome the objection. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended, as shown above, to recite the outer cylindrical body having a recessed portion. Thereby, it is clarified that the recessed portion is a part of the outer cylindrical body, and consequently, the lack of antecedent basis for "said recessed portion of said outer cylindrical body" with regard to claim 2 is now corrected.

Support for the amended claim 1 is found in Figs. 1-3, and support for the amended claim 2 is found in Figs. 1-4.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over JP 04124520 (hereafter JP '520). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the reasons provided below.

The invention recited in claim 1 is characterized in that the rubber elastic body has the projecting portion. Since the rubber elastic body has the projecting portion, a stopper member is unnecessary. >

On the other hand, JP '520 discloses a projecting portion (11). However, the projecting portion (11) is a part of a stopper member (9). Further, JP '520 discloses a rubber elastic body (5) that does not have the projecting portion (11). >

Clearly, JP '520 requires a stopper member, whereas the presently claimed invention does not have a stopper member. Hence, the shift lever bush of the present invention requires the fewer number of components than that of JP '520.

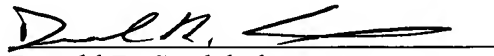
Consequently, since each and every feature of the present claims is not taught (and is not inherent) in the teachings of JP '520 et al, as is required by MPEP Chapter 2131 in order to establish anticipation, the rejection of claims 1 and 2, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as

anticipated by JP '520 is improper.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 2.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Studebaker  
Registration No.

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128  
(202) 585-8000